MARVEL
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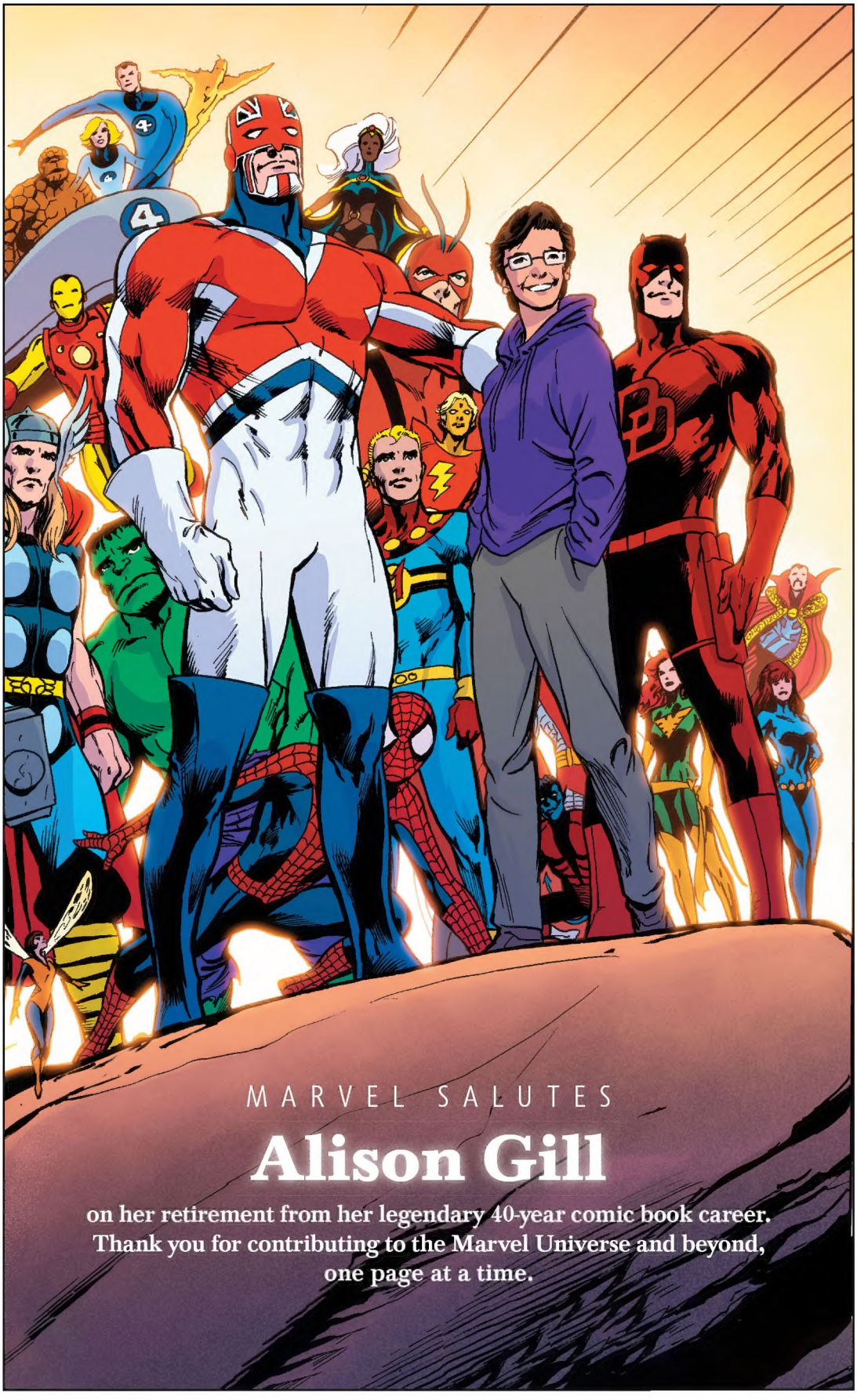
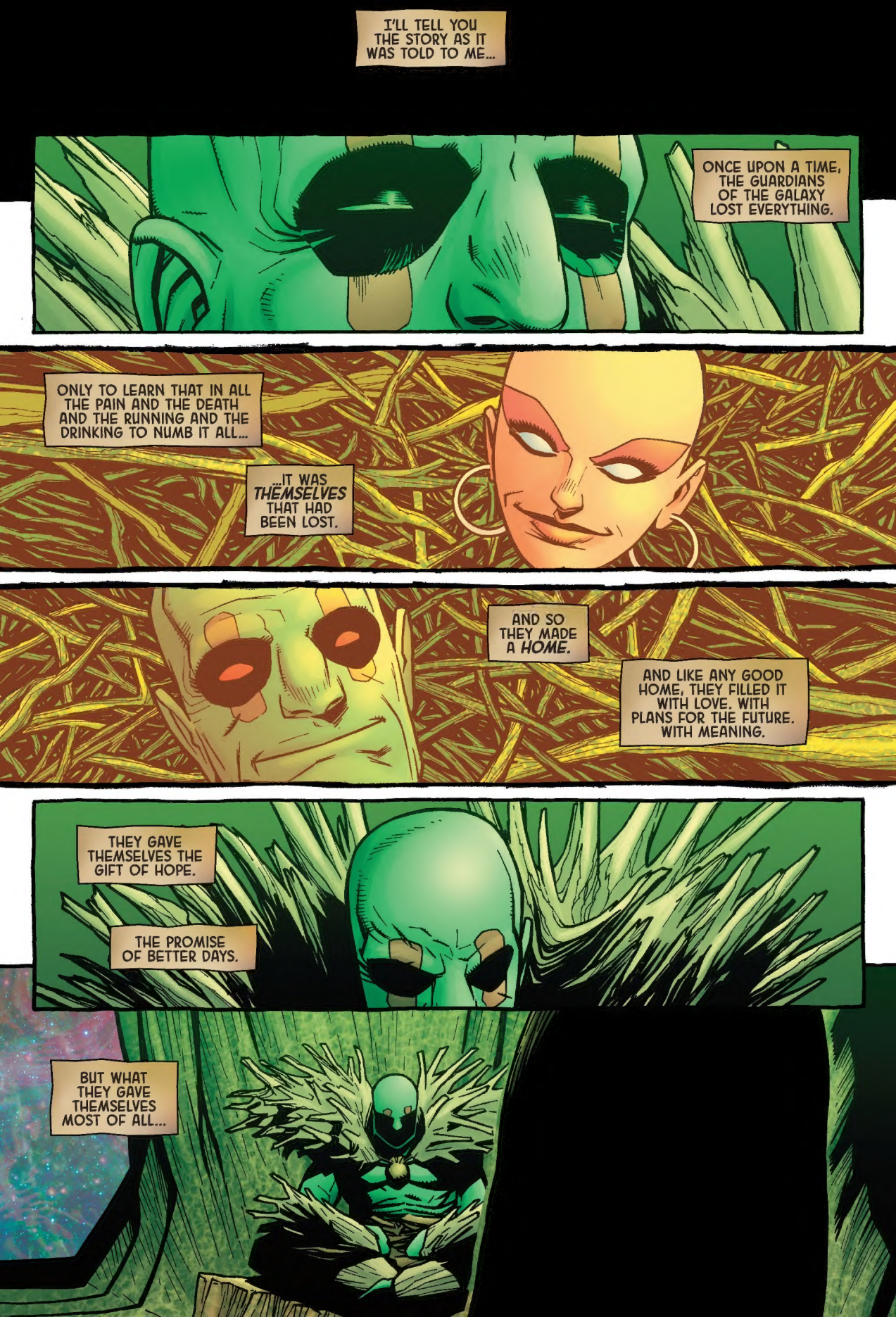
LGY#190
LANZING
KELLY
WALKER
HOLLINGSWORTH
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY
PACO Valenza


MARVEL SALUTES
Alison Gill
on her retirement from her legendary 40-year comic book career.
Thank you for contributing to the Marvel Universe and beyond,
one page at a time.


I'LL TELL YOU THE STORY AS IT WAS TOLD TO ME...
ONCE UPON A TIME, THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY LOST EVERYTHING.
ONLY TO LEARN THAT IN ALL THE PAIN AND THE DEATH AND THE RUNNING AND THE DRINKING TO NUMB IT ALL...
...IT WAS *THEMSELVES* THAT HAD BEEN LOST.
AND SO THEY MADE A *HOME.*
AND LIKE ANY GOOD HOME, THEY FILLED IT WITH LOVE. WITH PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. WITH MEANING.
THEY GAVE THEMSELVES THE GIFT OF HOPE.
THE PROMISE OF BETTER DAYS.
BUT WHAT THEY GAVE THEMSELVES MOST OF ALL...

...WAS SOMETHING MORE TO *LOSE.*
HEYA, DRAX.
WE GOT YOU SOMETHING.
HOPE YOU DON'T HAVE ONE ALREADY.
THIS...THIS IS THE SOUL OF ARTHUR DOUGLAS.
NOT JUST *HIS.* *YOURS.*
HOW DID YOU...?
MANTIS BEAT UP A ROBOT KID. I HELPED. IT WAS NUTS.

I...
...I HAVE IMAGINED THIS DAY FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
FINALLY, I CLAIM WHAT I HAVE LOST AND MASTER MY STOLEN SOUL.
WH
AM
I...
...WHY ISN'T IT WORKING?
IT'S OKAY, DRAX. WE'LL FIGURE OUT A WAY TO CRACK IT OPEN.
PETER'S RIGHT. TOGETHER, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN'T ACCOMPLISH.
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT LITTLE SCIENCE PROJECT IS GONNA HAVE TO WAIT.
AND I GOTTA GET ***THE PROJECT*** READY. LOOKS LIKE HULKLING'S WARNING WASN'T AN EXAGGERATION.
THE SPARTOI HAVE ENTERED GROOTSPACE...

"...AND THEY'RE LETTIN' THEIR GUNS DO THE TALKIN'."

PREVIOUSLY...

One year ago, Groot discovered the last survivor of his people, the *Flora colossi*, and was transformed into a legion of terraforming asteroids known as Grootfall. Only a few of the Guardians escaped with their lives, while the rest were killed as the Grootfall assimilated them and an entire sector--becoming Grootspace.

Or so the story goes...

Grootspace is actually the ancestral home of the *Flora colossi*...and the victims of Grootfall aren't dead, but in the process of being reborn! Groot has rejoined the Guardians to ensure that this process can be completed. Now the team must gear up to defend Groot from an assault by Star-Lord's sister, Empress Victoria of Spartax, and her armada. The Guardians just need one last thing in their arsenal to prepare: Drax's soul.

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

IN "THE GUNS OF HOME"

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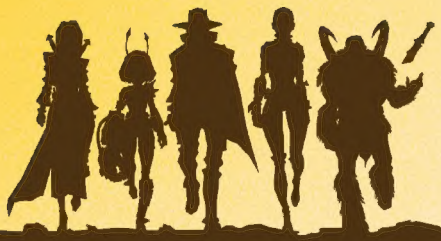

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OKAY, GUARDIANS.
WE'RE OFFICIALLY OPERATIONAL. PLAN'S SET, NO TIME TO WASTE.
CHECK IN.
MANTIS. KINDA EXCITED TO PUNCH SOME STUFF ACTUALLY. GO FOR LAUNCH.
DRAX. TRYING TO FOCUS ON THE MISSION, BUT I AM DISTRACTED BY MY UNCOOPERATIVE SOUL.
DRAX, YOU GOTTA SAY "GO FOR LAUNCH."
BUT I AM STILL PUTTING ON MY MASK.
ROCKET. SHE'S DONE, AND SHE'S BEAUTIFUL. NOW WE JUST GOTTA HOPE SHE WORKS.
GO FOR LAUNCH.
GAMORA. PREPARING FOR TACTICAL INSERTION. GO FOR LAUNCH.
ALSO, I LOVE YOU GUYS.
NEBULA. TARGET COORDINATES ARE LOCATED. EYE IS GIVING US A 32 PERCENT CHANCE OF SUCCESS. GO FOR LAUNCH.
AND I ALSO LOVE YOU GUYS.
THEN LET'S STICK TO THE PLAN AND MAKE SURE WE ALL GET HOME. WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL, THEN WE GO UNTIL THE FIGHT'S FINISHED.
OH YEAH? AND WHAT'S THE SIGNAL EXACTLY, OH MIGHTY STAR-LORD?
OH, KNOWING ME...

...I'M GUESSING IT'LL BE A *GUNSHOT.*

PETER...OR WHATEVER'S LEFT OF HIM INSIDE THAT WOODEN ABOMINATION...
...YOU ARE HEREBY STRIPPED OF YOUR RANK AS STAR-LORD AND YOUR CROWN AS HIGH PRINCE.
TODAY, SPARTAX CLEANSES THE GALAXY OF THE HORROR OF GROOTFALL.
VICTORIA. PLEASE. I'M SORRY ABOUT THE GREAT HUNT. THAT WAS...IMPULSIVE.*
BUT I'M STILL YOUR BROTHER. WE CAN TALK THIS OUT.
CAPTAIN KRAKEEN CARES TO DISAGREE.
*SEE ISSUE 3! --DS
YOU OWE ME MORE THAN I CAN EVER SAY, QUILL. I'LL BE IN THIS METAL MONSTROSITY TILL THE DAY I DIE, JUST TO KEEP BREATHIN'. THAT'S ON YOU.
SO YOUR DEATH'LL BE ON ME.
AS YOU SEE, I DOUBT VERY MUCH THERE'S ANY PATH FORWARD BUT WAR.
WELL. I HAD TO TRY.
GOODBYE, PETER.

BANG
GUARDIANS! WE'RE A GO!
GO GO GO GO GO!
TEAM VERY LOUD DISTRACTION IS IN THE FIELD!
YOUR WRETCHED SISTER BROUGHT MANY SPARTOI STARSHIPS, PETER QUILL...

...IT WILL BE A *PLEASURE* TO DESTROY THEM.

DISTRACTION ACTIVE!

AND DRAX IS STILL *MOSTLY* ON MISSION!

OVER TO YOU, GAMORA!

TEAM UNSTOPPABLE IS INSIDE THE BEAST!
WE'RE THROUGH THE OUTER LEVELS AND ARE--KAPOW--CLOSING IN ON THE TARGET!
DID YOU JUST SAY YOUR KAPOW OUT LOUD?
WHATEVER, I'M TRYING STUFF. LAY OFF.
THE SPARTOI FLAGSHIP SOLAR ENGINE.
IT'D BE BEAUTIFUL IF IT WASN'T BEING WIELDED BY A COMPLETE PIECE OF $#%&.
WORK FAST AND WORK CLEAN!
PROBABILITY OF ME DOING ANYTHING ELSE: ZERO PERCENT.
ALERT CODE PISCES. ENGINEERING SECURITY COMPROMISED.
ALERT CODE SCORPIO. SOLAR CORE INSTABILITY DETECTED.
KAPOW.
HEY, ACTUALLY, THAT IS PRETTY FUN.
ALERT CODE ARES. SOLAR CORE INSTABILITY CRITICAL.
SOLAR CORE EJECTION IN THREE--TWO--
WELL. BYE.

NO!!!
UNSTOPPABLE.
HEY THERE, GORGEOUS.

ALRIGHT, GROOTIANS, YOU READY TO SEE WHAT THIS LITTLE SCIENCE PROJECT CAN DO?! THEN I GOT A LITTLE RIDDLE FOR YA!
WHEN IS A FORTY-QUADRILLION-WATT FUSION ENGINE...
...NOT A FORTY-QUADRILLION-WATT FUSION ENGINE?
WHEN YOU'RE A VERY CLEVER, VERY PISSED-OFF RACCOON WHO'S BUILT THE UNIVERSE'S FIRST SOLAR-INJECTION RIG...
...AND STARTED TURNIN' IT INTO A POCKET SUN.

THE ARCANA HAVE SPOKEN. OUR VICTORY IS ASSURED.
WE CANNOT FAIL IN THIS. WE ARE THE GALAXY'S LAST REMAINING GUARDIANS.
EMPRESS, WITHOUT THE POWER CORE...OUR TRACTOR BEAM IS USELESS.
AND HE'S ALREADY OUTSIDE OUR GRAPPLE RANGE.
THEN WE FIRE!!!
GIVE ME EVERY TORPEDO! EVERY STELLAR WAVE BLASTER! EVERY SUNSPOT INDUCER!
OPEN EVERY DAMN GUN ON THIS SHIP...
...AND ANNIHILATE HIM FROM EXISTENCE!
BUT, MY EMPRESS...WE COULD HIT THE CORE. WITHOUT ITS STABILITY HOUSING, THE DETONATION WOULD BE, UH...
...100 BILLION MEGATONS.
WILL OUR SHIELDS HOLD?
YES. BUT THE REST OF THE ARMADA--
SHALL BE HONORED AS LEGENDS.
"NOW OBLITERATE!"
WHOA!
WATCH IT, YA FLARKIN' DINGBATS! I'M DOIN' SCIENCE OVER HERE!

GAMORA, COME ON! ESCAPE PODS ARE THIS WAY. LET'S JET.
SURE. OR...NEW PITCH: WE *END* VICTORIA. HERE AND NOW.
SHE CHOSE THIS VENDETTA, NEBULA. SHE PUT ALL OF THESE PEOPLE IN DANGER. SHE COULD HAVE LEFT ALL OF THIS ALONE, AND INSTEAD, SHE CHOSE *WAR.*
REMIND YOU OF ANYONE?
YEAH. SHE DOES.
BUT REMEMBER WHAT WE LEARNED AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS FIGHTING *THANOS...*
...IT'S NOT JUST *MONSTERS* THAT GET TO MAKE CHOICES. *YOU* GET ONE TOO.
YOU CAN BE A KNIFE...
GRP
...OR YOU CAN BE A *GUARDIAN.*

ROCKET? HOW ARE WE LOOKING?
WE'RE LOOKIN', AH-- WHAT'S THE WORD FOR WHEN LITERALLY EVERYTHING'S ON FIRE BUT NOT IN THE GOOD WAY?
OH, RIGHT--BAD. WE'RE LOOKING BAD, QUILL.
I'M STABILIZIN' THIS MICRO-SUN WITH EVERY TRICK I KNOW, BUT IF I TAKE MY EYE OFF THIS THING FOR EVEN A MINUTE...
...OR YOUR CRUSADIN' SISTER GETS ENOUGH SHOTS IN...
...THERE'S NOT GONNA BE ANY OF ME TO PUT BACK TOGETHER.
WHAT? I THOUGHT THE IDEA WAS TO TRIGGER IT REMOTELY?!
THAT WAS BEFORE YOUR SISTER DECIDED SUPERNOVA-ING THE ENTIRETY OF GROOTSPACE WAS AN ACCEPTABLE COURSE OF ACTION!
UNLESS ONE OF YOU GENIUSES HAS ANOTHER SOLVE, THIS IS IT.
I MEAN, ALWAYS KNEW I'D GO OUT IN A BIG OL' BALL OF FIRE. KINDA FIGURED A FEW OF YOU WOULD GO OUT WITH ME.
BUT NOW THAT WE'RE HERE, I GOTTA BE HONEST, QUILL...
...I DON'T WANNA DIE.

I HAVE BECOME EXCEEDINGLY GOOD AT LISTENING.
MANTIS. THIS SPACESHIP FIGHT IS NOW IN YOUR CAPABLE HANDS.
EXCUSE ME? NO OFFENSE, BUT NOW IS A LESS THAN IDEAL TIME TO STOP SMASHING.
AND YOU WILL NOT, MY FRAGILE FURRY FRIEND.
DRAX?! I WASN'T TALKIN' TA YOU!
"FOR GROOT TO BLOOM...HE NEEDS THE SUN."
IF THE RACCOON FAILS, WE NEVER LEAVE THE DARKNESS.
SO IT IS MY TURN TO SHINE.
WELL, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT?
YOU'RE IMPROVISING.
YES.
I AM DONE RUNNING FROM THE JAZZ.

DAMMIT, DRAX.
COME TO DIE, QUILL?! 'BOUT DAMN *TIME!*
YOU BEEN DODGIN' THIS BULLET FOR TOO LONG!
YOU TALK TOO MUCH, KRAKEEN.
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT.
'CEPT THE BULLET I'M DODGIN'...
...IT AIN'T BEEN YOURS.

LISTEN UP, EVERYONE. GET THE SUN FIRING. DO WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO. BUT I'M GOIN' ROGUE.
MY SISTER'S THE PROBLEM...
...AND I'M THE SOLUTION.
BROTHER.
HEY, VIC. BILL ME FOR THE WINDOW.
YOU'LL PAY WITH YOUR LIFE.
SEE, I'M THINKING WE DO THIS THE OTHER WAY 'ROUND.
OH?
YOU'VE COME TO BEG FOR THE LIVES OF YOUR INSIPID FRIENDS?
NO. I'VE COME TO FINALLY TAKE WHAT'S MINE.
AND WHAT YOU'VE PROVEN YOU DON'T DESERVE.
I'VE COME FOR THE THRONE.
TO BE CONCLUDED IN THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ANNUAL!

NEXT: GROOTRISE!

Groot has been on a journey for the past year, and all the growth and loss and heartache have been for this moment. Can the Guardians confront their pasts to ensure their family has a future? Grootfall comes to its triumphant conclusion!

EMAIL US AT **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** AND MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!